

## **COUNCIL – 29 April 2003**

---

Minutes of the meeting of **Council** held on **29 April 2003** when there were present:

Cllr R A Amner (Vice-Chairman in the Chair)

Cllr C I Black	Cllr Mrs M D McCarthy
Cllr Mrs R Brown	Cllr G A Mockford
Cllr P A Capon	Cllr R A Oatham
Cllr Mrs T J Capon	Cllr J M Pullen
Cllr R G S Choppen	Cllr P K Savill
Cllr T G Cutmore	Cllr C G Seagers
Cllr D F L Flack	Cllr S P Smith
Cllr K A Gibbs	Cllr Mrs M A Starke
Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn	Cllr M G B Starke
Cllr J E Grey	Cllr J Thomass
Cllr A J Humphries	Cllr Mrs M S Vince
Cllr C A Hungate	Cllr Mrs M J Webster
Cllr Mrs L Hungate	Cllr P F A Webster
Cllr C C Langlands	Cllr Mrs M A Weir
Cllr T Livings	Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins
Cllr J R F Mason	

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs R S Allen, T E Goodwin, C J Lumley, Mrs J R Lumley and C R Morgan.

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

P Warren	- Chief Executive
R Crofts	- Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)
R J Honey	- Corporate Director (Law, Planning & Administration)
S Fowler	- Head of Administrative and Member Services
G Woolhouse	- Head of Housing, Health and Community Care
J Bourne	- Leisure and Contracts Manager
S Worthington	- Committee Administrator

### **ALSO PRESENT**

C Bentley - Operations Manager, Holmes Place Leisure Management

### **220 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2003 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **221 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM CHAIRMAN**

The Vice-Chairman paid tribute to the Chairman for all his hard work in

fulfilling his official engagements during the past few months.

He also wished good luck to all those Members who would not be returning to the Council after the Elections.

### 222 COMMITTEE MINUTES AND REPORTS

Council received the Minutes of Committees and considered Committee reports as follows:-

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Minute No</b>
(1) Environment Overview & Scrutiny	26 February 2003	96 - 98
(2) Community Services	4 March 2003	99 – 104
(3) Environmental Services	6 March 2003	105 – 111
(4) Policy & Finance	11 March 2003	112 – 123
(5) Community Overview & Scrutiny	13 March 2003	123A – 129
(6) Environment Overview & Scrutiny	18 March 2003	130 – 136
(7) Environment Overview & Scrutiny	19 March 2003	137 – 145
(8) Planning Services	20 March 2003	146 – 149
(9) Finance & Procedures Overview & Scrutiny	25 March 2003	150 – 158

#### **Review of Outside Bodies (Minute 153/03)**

Council considered the report of the Finance & Procedures Overview & Scrutiny Committee on appointment arrangements for outside bodies.

Responding to a Member enquiry, Officers confirmed that arrangements applied to the new municipal year.

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That, subject to having three appointees on the Joint Health Partnership Board with Castle Point, membership of outside bodies be changed on the basis set out at Appendix 1 of the report.

- (2) That, to enable allying to appropriate Service Areas, appointments to Outside Bodies should, wherever possible, be from the membership of an appropriate Policy Committee or Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the basis set out at Appendix 2 of the report.
- (3) That all appointees to Outside Bodies have a substitute, with the exception of the London Southend Airport Consultative Committee, for which there should be at least two substitutes.
- (4) That appointees to Outside Bodies receive initial briefings on the work of the Body by an appropriate Officer or a Body representative.
- (5) That Member and Officer appointees be asked to report back on the work of Bodies to which they are appointed via the Members' Bulletin twice per year. The possibility of an appointee reporting into the appointing Committee should not be discounted as an alternative in appropriate circumstances.
- (6) That when Members consider appointments, information should be available on the timing, frequency and location of meetings. (HAMS)

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Minute No</b>
(10) Environment Overview & Scrutiny	27 March 2003	159 - 162
(11) Community Services	1 April 2003	163 – 170

### **Best Value Review of Emergency Planning – Appointment of Emergency Planning Sub-Committee (Minute 165/03)**

Council considered the report of the Community Services Committee requesting that an Emergency Planning Sub-Committee be established.

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That an Emergency Planning Sub-Committee be established with a standing membership of the Leader of the Council, the Chairmen of Community Services, Environmental Services, Policy & Finance and Planning Services Committees.
- (2) The terms of reference of the Sub-Committee to be as follows:

“To convene at the request of the Chief Executive or Leader of the Council at short notice when a Major Incident affecting the District, or part of the District, has been declared by the Emergency Services, or when a Catastrophic Incident has been declared by Central Government, with delegated authority to deal with all matters requiring:

## COUNCIL – 29 April 2003

---

- The urgent commitment of significant human, financial and/or other resources.
- Any related issues due to the profound nature of the incident.” (CE)

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Minute No</b>
(12) Environmental Services	3 April 2003	171 - 175
(13) Policy & Finance	8 April 2003	176 - 188
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Minute No</b>
(14) Standards Committee	10 April 2003	189 - 193
(15) Community Overview & Scrutiny	15 April 2003	194 - 199
(16) Environment Overview & Scrutiny	17 April 2003	200 - 205
(17) Finance & Procedures Overview & Scrutiny	22 April 2003	206 – 212

### **Citizens Advice Bureau Accommodation – Rochford Office (Minute 204/03)**

Council considered the report of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommending that no objections in principle be raised to a proposal which had been put forward by the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) to extend their premises in Back Lane, Rochford.

Cllr P F A Webster declared a personal interest in the item by virtue of being the District Council's representative on the Citizens Advice Bureau Management Committee.

#### **Resolved**

That, from a landlord's viewpoint, and subject to further information as to the details, no objections in principle are raised to this proposal. (CE)

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Minute No</b>
(18) Planning Services	24 April 2003	213 - 219

## **223 MOTIONS ON NOTICE**

The Proper Officer reported that, pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 12, the following Motion had been received from Councillors P F A Webster,

G A Mockford, P K Savill, P A Capon, T G Cutmore, A J Humphries, J E Grey, Mrs T J Capon, M G B Starke, Mrs M A Starke and Mrs M J Webster : -

### **Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park**

“Rochford District Councillors record their appreciation of members of staff and outside contractors for their commitment to the creation of Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park. Their dedication, together with the generous financial help and expert advice from Essex County Council, the Forestry Commission, Essex Tree Services and Thames Gateway, were displayed at the opening of the Park by HRH Princess Anne on April 11<sup>th</sup>.”

Council paid tribute to Officers for all their hard work on this project and, in particular, for obtaining the expertise and financial assistance from a variety of external sources. Once completed Cherry Orchard Jubilee Park would provide a variety of facilities for young and old in over 100 acres of open land.

On a motion moved by Cllr P F A Webster and seconded by Cllr G A Mockford, it was:-

### **Resolved**

That the Motion be agreed. (HAMS)

## **224 ROCHFORD COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

Council considered the report of the Chief Executive introducing the draft Community Strategy for Members' consideration and comments, prior to the draft Strategy being considered by the Local Strategic Partnership in early June.

Cllr Mrs M J Webster declared a personal interest in the item by virtue of representing Essex County Council on community and mental health issues. In addition, Cllr C I Black declared a prejudicial interest by virtue of his employment with Cory Brothers Shipping Ltd and left the Chamber during discussion of the Shell Haven issue.

Responding to a Member enquiry about using life expectancy as a means of measuring healthy living, Officers suggested this might not be useful, given that residents in the District enjoy a higher life expectancy relative to adjoining areas.

Members requested that:

- the need for more General Practitioners within the District should be given priority within the Strategy;
- measuring residents' fear of crime should include a percentage of those who feel unsafe after dark;

- the referring of various health and safety issues associated with Thames-side industries to a higher Authority should be given priority within the Strategy;
- Residents in Great Wakering and Foulness use the railway stations in Shoeburyness and Thorpe Bay from which journey times to London are in excess of one hour; reference to this should be included within the document.

Responding to a further Member concern relating to residents' growing concern about youth crime, Officers confirmed that consideration of youth issues was currently underway by the South Essex Forum. Any recommendations arising from that Forum could be incorporated into the Strategy.

Concluding the discussion, Members, while recognising residents' concern about youth nuisance, felt it was important not to stigmatise youth as a whole. There would be merit within the Strategy in stressing the importance of providing facilities and activities for the young. The Warehouse Centre on the Brook Road estate was cited as a successful example of a disused manufacturing building being utilised to provide a facility for young people.

On a motion moved by Cllr P F A Webster and seconded by Cllr P A Capon, it was:-

### **Resolved**

That, subject to Members' comments above, the draft Strategy be recommended for approval for consultation purposes to the Local Strategic Partnership Steering Group. (CE)

## **225 COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT (CPA) FOR DISTRICTS**

Council considered the report of the Chief Executive on the publication by the Audit Commission on 14 April 2003 of draft proposals for consultation on the methodology and scoring system to be employed on the CPA for District Councils.

### **Resolved**

That the detailed response to the Audit Commission's consultation on the CPA for Districts methodology and scoring be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council. (CE)

## **226 DRAFT NHS LOCAL DELIVERY PLAN**

Council considered the report of the Head of Housing, Health and Community Care inviting Members to comment on the draft Local Delivery Plan (LDP) 2003/4 – 2005/6 which has been prepared by Essex Strategic Health Authority.

During debate, the following concerns were noted:

- The odour problem from Thames-side industries which are now affecting parts of this district
- standards of cleanliness in hospitals and the need for high standards of hygiene on home visits;
- hospital feeding arrangements for those elderly people who need assistance to eat or drink.

### **Resolved**

That the response indicated in the report be made to the consultation from Essex Strategic Health Authority, subject to the Member comments above.

## **227 TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2003/2004**

Council considered the report of the Head of Administrative and Member Services recommending the adoption of a timetable of meetings for the 2003/2004 municipal year.

On a motion moved by Cllr P F A Webster and seconded by Cllr T G Cutmore, it was:-

### **Resolved**

That the timetable of meetings for 2003/2004, as set out in the appendix to this report be adopted. (HAMS)

### **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

### **Resolved**

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining business on the grounds that exempt information as defined in paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 would be disclosed.

## **228 PARK SPORTS CENTRE – DETAILED COSTINGS**

Council considered the exempt report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) providing Members with detailed costings for the proposed facilities at the new leisure centre on the former Park School site, including both capital costs and the annual unitary charge payable to Holmes Place.

Members believed that a final decision on facilities should not be taken until the next Council meeting in order to allow new Members the opportunity to contribute to the discussion.

Council welcomed Mr Carl Bentley to the meeting. Mr Bentley was in

attendance to give a presentation on a proposed plan for the new leisure centre.

During the presentation and in response to Member questions Mr Bentley advised that:-

- the bowls hall, café/bar and skateboarding park were additions to the original proposals;
- the plan took up 3.2 acres;
- the bowls hall proposed comprised 4 rinks and was for bowls only;
- the proposed skateboarding park could accommodate 24 users;
- the astro turf had been replaced with a tarmac area for netball, football and tennis;
- the proposed mix of facilities would differentiate the centre from Clements Hall and would target a different market and age group;
- access from the bowls hall to other areas was under cover;
- ramps for the skateboarding park would be made from concrete in order to absorb sound;
- access to the skateboarding park could not be sited closer to the road as this would lead to any potential noise being closer to residential areas;
- architects had applied the usual design criteria with respect to car parking requirements for the new leisure centre.

Responding to Member concern about the possible demand for a larger skateboarding park, Mr Bentley confirmed that it would be difficult to accommodate a larger park on the site. Analysis of demand for this facility would, however, be conducted and the results brought to the next Council meeting.

On a motion moved by Cllr P F A Webster and seconded by Cllr P A Capon it was:-

### **Resolved**

That the final decision on facilities for the new leisure centre on the former Park School site be taken at the next Council meeting. (CD(F&ES))

The Meeting closed at 8.50 pm

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_